

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 01054 302042Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
TRSE-00 /077 W  
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R 301200Z JUN 78  
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3581  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USAREUR HEIDELBERG  
USAFE RAMSTEIN  
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 1054

MIL ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT GW  
SUBJ: TIME TABLE FOR KUEHN'S RESIGNATION AS NRW MINISTER PRESIDENT

REF: DUSSELDORF 1007

1. A TIME TABLE WAS WORKED OUT ON JUNE 27, 1978 BETWEEN  
NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIAN (NRW) MINISTER PRESIDENT HEINZ  
KUEHN AND THE SPD AND FDP LANDTAG FACTIONS CONCERNING  
KUEHN'S RESIGNATION FROM HIS OFFICE (SEE REFTEL).

2. ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1978 A SPECIAL NRW/SPD CONVENTION  
WILL ELECT A CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED KUEHN AS MINISTER  
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PRESIDENT. THE CONTENDERS ARE DR. DIETHER POSSER, NRW  
FINANCE MINISTER, AND JOHANNES RAU, NRW MINISTER FOR  
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH AND NRW/SPD CHAIRMAN. THE FDP HAS  
PLEDGED SUPPORT TO THE CANDIDATE CHOSEN BY THE SPD.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1978 MINISTER PRESIDENT KUEHN  
WILL FORMALLY DECLARE HIS RESIGNATION FROM HIS OFFICE

IN A LETTER TO LANDTAG PRESIDENT DR. WILHELM LENZ (CDU).

4. IN ITS SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1978 THE NRW LANDTAG WILL ELECT A NEW MINISTER PRESIDENT. THE CANDIDATE PUT UP BY THE SPD/FDP COALITION WITH A POTENTIAL VOTE OF 105 DEPUTIES WILL BE OPPOSED BY OPPOSITION LEADER HEINRICH KOEPLER, WHO COMMANDS 95 CDU VOTES.

5. COMMENTS: BOTH THE SPD AND THE FDP HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THAT THERE ARE NO DISSENTERS IN THEIR RANKS, SO THAT THE NEW INCUMBENT COULD BE SURE OF ALL COALITION VOTES. IN 1976 MINISTER PRESIDENT KUEHN FELL ONE VOTE SHORT OF THAT IDEAL. THE MOOD IN THE CDU IS MORE SUBDUED. ITS HOPES FOR DISSENTERS SUFFERED A SETBACK, WHEN DR. HORST LUDWIG RIEMER, NRW MINISTER OF ECONOMICS AND TRANSPORT AND NRW/FDP CHAIRMAN REJECTED COALITION OFFERS OF THE CDU. A PREDICTION AS TO WHO OF THE TWO SPD CONTENDERS WILL BE SELECTED IS IMPOSSIBLE AND WILL MOSTLY DEPEND ON THE SENTIMENT WHICH HAPPENS TO PREVAIL OF THE SPECIAL SPD CONVENTION. BOTH CANDIDATES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE EQUALLY QUALIFIED TO FILL THE POSITION VACATED BY KUEHN.DUX

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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